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Swedish Arms Official Admits He Spied for Soviet for 15 Years

Ex-Attache in Washington Is Said to Have Sold Secrets of U.S. and NATO

By WERNER WISKARI

Special to The New York Times

STOCKHOLM, June 25.—The

Swedish Government announced today the arrest of one of its disarmament specialists on charges that he had spied for the Soviet Union since 1948.

According to the announcement, Col. Stig Wennerstrom has confessed to having accepted Soviet pay for 15 years.

The public prosecutor here said the 57-year-old colonel had furnished the Russians with military data on Sweden and "other countries." The "other countries," it was understood, are the United States and other members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The Swedish Government also announced that it had demanded the immediate recall of two members of the Soviet Embassy. They are Maj. Gen. Vitali A. Nikolsky, the army attaché in Sweden, who would remain from navy and air force attaché, and such acts" henceforth. Georgi P. Baranovski, a first secretary of the embassy.

Foreign Minister Torsten Nilsson delivered a sharp protest to



Associated Press
Col. Stig Wennerstrom

the Soviet chargé d'affaires against activities by Soviet diplomats "contrary to both Swedish and international law." Mr. Nilsson expressed "the definite expectation that Soviet officials in Sweden would refrain from such acts" henceforth.

The espionage case, which stunned the Swedish Govern-

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ment and the public, was described by officials as the gravest and most shocking in the history of this neutral country.

The Social Democratic Gov-

Court Action Due Friday

ernment of Premier Tage Erlander was summoned to a special meeting tomorrow to consider the situation.

The arrest of Colonel Wennerstrom also came as a shock to the American community here. Having been Swedish arrested by the police may be attaché in Washington from held only five days without 1952 to 1957, the colonel had further legal proceedings, a frequent and popular guest in the homes of Unitedon Friday. An indictment and

States Embassy officers. trial behind closed doors will follow.

The Public Prosecutor described Colonel Wennerstrom's activities as having been of considerable scope.

"Secret documents have been photographed," the official said. He added that the colonel had confessed having turned over the rolls of film to a "contact" man, among other places at Soviet Embassy receptions.

Colonel at Geneva Talks

The colonel has been retired from military service since 1961 when he became an adviser on disarmament problems for the Swedish Foreign Ministry. He has taken part in the disarmament negotiations in Geneva.

Swedish officials said the colonel had apparently been recruited for Soviet espionage work in 1948 when he was serving as an instructor in the air force college for senior officers here.

He went to Moscow the following year as Swedish air attaché. He had previously served in the Soviet Union as assistant air attaché in 1940 and 1941.

From Moscow, he was transferred in 1952 to Washington. At the end of five years of duty there, he received the customary Legion of Merit decoration that the United States awards to senior military attachés from friendly countries.

Returning home in 1957, he was attached for the last four years of his active military career to the Defense Ministry's Joint Services Staff of liaison officers.

Colonel Wennerstrom was arrested last Thursday. Swedish authorities declined to say what had made them suspicious of him or how long he had been under surveillance.

His arrest was disclosed in connection with the Public Prosecutor's formal application to the City Court for permission to commit the colonel to the City Court for permanent

Under Swedish law, persons are held only five days without trial. The court is expected to act

States Embassy officers. trial behind closed doors will follow.

The Swedish Government announced today that it had already sought to establish to what extent Sweden's security interests had been harmed. It said it would take "the necessary steps" as soon as possible.

To some Swedish officials the most shocking aspect of the case was the disclosure that the spying had been undertaken for financial gain.

There have been several espionage cases in Sweden since the World War II but none of the magnitude of this one. In the others, officials noted, the main motivation had apparently been ideological.

U.S. Officials Silent

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 25.—United States officials declined today to comment on the arrest of Colonel Wennerstrom.

Colonel Wennerstrom was socially active in Washington during his tour of duty from 1952 to 1957.

In the last year of his stay, his daughter Christine ran away with Huw Williams, a 17-year-old Senate page, whose mother was employed in a Senate typing room.

The two first went to Charles- town, W. Va., where they were refused a marriage license because of their ages. They were finally intercepted at Williamsport, Pa., on a speeding charge. Christine departed with her mother on the following day for Sweden.

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